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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,094	09/11/2003	George S. Reppas	4447-000013	5931
27572	7590	09/08/2004	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			SINGH, SUNIL	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	3673

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/660,094	REPPAS ET AL M
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Sunil Singh	3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 9/11/03 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/11/03</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 6, "bottom wall 2" appears to be incorrect. Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show "56" as described in the specification (page 7). Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4, 10-11, 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Luedtke et al. (US 4103373).

Luedtke et al. discloses a convertible furniture assembly comprising: a frame assembly (11,12,13,15); an upper platform (22,23) pivotally (17) coupled to said frame assembly for supporting a bedding component, said upper platform being moveable between a raised position and a lowered position (see Figs. 1,2), and a counterbalance member (20) coupled to said upper platform, said counterbalance member being raised between a first position and a second position in response to said upper platform moving from said raised position to said lowered position.

5. Claims 1-4, 10-11, 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Teufel (US 482028).

Tuefel discloses a convertible furniture assembly comprising: a frame assembly (see Figs. 1,2); an upper platform (9) pivotally coupled to said frame assembly for supporting a bedding component, said upper platform being moveable between a raised position and a lowered position (see Figs. 1,2), and a counterbalance member (7) coupled to said upper platform, said counterbalance member being raised between a first position

and a second position in response to said upper platform moving from said raised position to said lowered position.

6. Claims 1-4, 10-11, 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson (US 950362).

Anderson discloses a convertible furniture assembly comprising: a frame assembly (see Figs. 1,3); an upper platform (6) pivotally coupled to said frame assembly for supporting a bedding component, said upper platform being moveable between a raised position and a lowered position (see Figs. 1,3), and a counterbalance member (3) coupled to said upper platform, said counterbalance member being raised between a first position and a second position in response to said upper platform moving from said raised position to said lowered position.

7. Claims 1-4, 10-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sherman (US 6401276).

Sherman discloses a convertible furniture assembly comprising: a frame assembly (see Figs. 5,10); an upper platform (38) pivotally (40) coupled to said frame assembly for supporting a bedding component, said upper platform being moveable between a raised position and a lowered position (see Figs. 5,10), and a counterbalance member (42, see Fig. 7) coupled to said upper platform, said counterbalance member being raised between a first position and a second position in response to said upper platform moving from said raised position to said lowered position. Torsion system (58).

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 12,13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luedtke et al. in view of Reppas or Drexhage or Reppas et al. (US 4318195, 4597568, 5621930).

Luedtke et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Luedtke lacks torsion system. Reppas, Drexhage and Reppas et al. all teach torsion systems (52,54; 10; 20). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Luedtke et al. by including the torsion system as taught by either Reppas or Drexhage or Reppas et al. since such a modification aids in the uprighting of the bed to it's stored position.

10. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luedtke et al. in view of Burchett (US 5033134)

Luedtke et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Luedtke lacks a frame that is cabinet. Burchett teaches a cabinet frame (see Fig. 3). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Luedtke et al. by having his frame as a cabinet as taught by Burchett since such a modification provides adequate storage as well as enhance the aesthetic appearance.

11. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sherman in view of Burchett (US 5033134)

Sherman discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Sherman lacks a frame that is cabinet. Burchett teaches a cabinet frame (see Fig. 3). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sherman by having his frame as a cabinet as taught by Burchett since such a modification provides adequate storage as well as enhance the aesthetic appearance.

^{5-9,}
12. Claims 21-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Sherman in view of George (US 4283811) or Berry et al. (US 3591247) or Japanese
document (53-32258)

Sherman discloses the invention substantially as claimed. However, Sherman is silent about using an L-shaped hinge. George, Berry et al. and Japanese document '258 all teach an L-shaped hinge (see Figs. 2, 8 and 2 respectively). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sherman by substituting the L-shaped hinge as taught by either George or Berry et al. or Japanese document '258 for the hinge (66, see Sherman col. 6) disclosed by Sherman since it is a design choice to substitute equivalent parts for performing equivalent functions.

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Doring, Carleton, Plackard, Specht, Potter, Eames, Jones and Sherman (US 244566, 307013, 1419586, 2564512, 2671230, 3088127, 6212710, 6691342) all teach combination bed and furniture.

Art Unit: 3673

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunil Singh whose telephone number is (703) 308-4024.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on (703) 308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sunil Singh


Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3673

SS


8/25/04